

possession of it is an instance of its truth. Men and women promised things they could not fulfil and had sober sense prevailed they might have known they could not even while they promised it."

This is an illustration that does not illustrate for the real facts of the conference referred to are not in accordance with the statement.

At the Johnstown Conference in 1895 the mission board reported an indebtedness and those who felt led by the Spirit (tho you say we dishonor him by so saying) suggested a voluntary offering which came not as the result of speeches, emotional declarations or sensation of any kind and was as largely paid as any offering of similar magnitude given under any model condition you may select. No one contributed, to my remembrance, over \$5 and of the many contributors I have met I have yet to find one whose "sober sense" caused them to regret the gift. There may have been such but the very fact they begrudge the amount makes their testimony the weaker.

At the Salisbury Conference in 1896 the mission board had money in the treasury, tho large amounts had been expended. The next year, 1897, or two years later, at New Enterprise the board had considerable money in the treasury and the self denial pledges of \$5 were quite numerous. Then against the earnest wish of those who had been called enthusiasts the plan was changed, an evangelist ordained, added responsibilities put upon the board and at Philadelphia in 1898 the board reported an indebtedness of about \$400 which debt we have labored until this year to pay.

But how about the Johnstown church which would most feel the spur of the enthusiasm and according to your rule the most of the reaction?

Thank God there has yet to come one backward step in missions. Each year even thru the adverse mission years of '99 and 1900 her contributions increased and were given with real joy and enthusiasm, and is \$100 this year. I believe that the real evangelistic spirit came upon the church here that blessed day since which over 250 have come into the church and hundreds of dollars been sent away.

We as a church are largely past the place of fear of enthusiasm for God and missions. I would rejoice to see another such a day in Pennsylvania; it would do us all good and would be a source of great awakening to our churches. I write this to you and in this manner because of the deep respect and love I have for you.

#### WHAT IS MAN?

GEO. S. GRIM

As God created man he was good, dominion was given unto him over all life on the earth and in the sea. It was God's purpose that man should be thus highly exalted. But what has befallen man? Ah! Sin has entered his heart; he has fallen from his holy

estate, ruined, lost undone. All that was good and pure and holy has been corrupted by sin, and man is subject to vile and hateful passions, is filled with selfish and unholy motives, and is proud, haughty, conceited. All kind of sin and devices will arise in man's heart. The desire to rule and have dominion is still very prominent, but it is depraved.

When we look at man we look on the outward form and appearance. The talents, attainments and achievements we seek to educate, refine, improve and cultivate man. But the Lord looks at the heart. There he saw the wickedness of man and said, "Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

But God also laid a plan to redeem man from his sinful condition. He says, If any man be in Christ Jesus he is a new creature, old things have passed away, behold all things are new. The old man died on the cross and was buried. The new man is the fruit of the resurrection. Man is again restored to do the will of Christ, to lay aside the sinful passions, the unholy and selfish motives and subdue all kind of devices that may arise in the heart by the spirit and word of Christ.

*Louisville, Ohio.*

#### CONFERENCE RETROSPECTS

J. C. CASSEL

The National Conference of the Brethren church of 1901 has gone down into history as one of the best Conferences on record. When I came to Winona and learned that four or five of the more active and prominent members of the church did not expect to come to the Conference I felt that it would prove to be a partial failure, and slimly attended, but the outcome has proven that the success of a conference does not depend upon a few active workers. In their absence there are always others to take their places. Prior to my going to Conference a brother wrote me that he did not think he would go, saying that he did not see the need of Annual Conferences, but he came, and was the first man to make a three minute speech to give it a send-off. Before the sessions opened there was quite a sentiment in favor of Bi-ennial Conferences but after the first session there was not a word heard against Annual Conferences.

It was during the first business session that a fund of over six hundred dollars was raised for scientific apparatus for Ashland College. This supplies a long-felt need, which in the progress of events had become an absolute necessity. Had there been no Conference the money would not have been raised, and the College would have been unable to teach the advanced classes for at least another year.

Again, a subscription of nearly eight hundred dollars was taken toward the purchase of a church property in Chicago. Just at this time it was possible to purchase a property at several thousand dollars less than its

actual value. Without the Conference the property would probably not have been purchased, and our cause then thus left to linger for at least another year, and probably the present opportunity for acquiring property at small cost lost forever. Again the missionary interest received a great impetus along all lines, especially the foreign. A small sum was subscribed toward the opening of a mission in Persia. The Foreign Missionary Society was more effectually organized. An offer of two thousand dollars cash was tendered toward the commencement of a foreign work.

Again new additions were made to the host of active workers in our general work that will prove strong factors in the future work of the church. This one feature alone, the drawing in of new workers, and the renewed inspiration of the older ones would justify the holding of annual conferences. It is those who spend money and time to go to conference that spend money and time to advance the general interests of the church. Such as are too lazy and stingy to attend conferences as a rule prove themselves to be the same toward the general work of the church.

*Later.* Word has come to me that the the church property in Chicago has been purchased upon the terms named. Particulars will be given, and an official call for contributions issued next week.

## The Home

#### Sunshine Land

They came in sight of a lovely shore,  
Yellow as gold in the morning light;  
The sun's own color at noon it wore,  
And had faded not at the fall of night;  
Clear weather or cloudy—'twas all as one,  
The happy hills seemed bathed with the sun;  
Its secret the sailors could not understand,  
But they called the country Sunshine Land.

What was the secret? A simple thing—  
It will make you smile when once you know—  
Touched by the tender finger of spring  
A million blossoms were all aglow:  
So many, so many, so small and bright,  
They covered the hills with a mantle of light;  
And the wild bee hummed, and the glad breeze  
fanned

Through the honeyed fields of Sunshine Land.

If over the sea we two were bound,  
What port, dear child, would we choose for ours?  
We would sail and sail till at last we found  
This fairy gold of a million flowers.  
Yet, darling, we'd find, if at home we stayed,  
Of many and small joys our pleasures are made,  
More near than we think—very close at hand—  
Lie the golden fields of Sunshine Land.

—Edith Thomas, in *New York Weekly*.

#### The Childrens National Guild Of Courtesy

LUCIA AMES MEAD

This is a title of a society inaugurated in England in 1892 for the promotion of a spirit of politeness among children of the rising generation. Its methods and its success may well be studied by a people like our own, which is as noted for its lack of manners among children as for the kind consid-